

Amendments

The specification is amended to update the cross-reference, and correct a typographical error in a sequence reference number; the claims are amended to require hybridization under stringent conditions, and to recite that the hybridization is between nucleic acids; new claims 21-26 recite an exemplified stringent condition (specification, p.7, lines 10-15); and new claims 27-32 require that the polynucleotide comprise the recited SEQ ID NO.

35USC112, second paragraph.

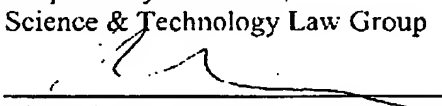
Afe1 and Rce1 are definite terms in the art for specific CAAX proteases. The Action cites "Face-2"; however the term "Face-2" is just a known synonym for RCE1 – they are the same thing. See, UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot entry Q9Y256 for Face-2 (attached).

35USC112, first paragraph

The recited genus is circumscribed by both structure (hybridizing under stringent conditions to, or comprising a recited sequence) and function (encoding a CAAX protease that mediates the proteolytic removal of an AAX tripeptide from a prenylated CAAX protein). New claims 21-26 specifically define required hybridization and wash conditions; and new claims 27-32 specifically require that the polynucleotide comprise the recited SEQ ID NO.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned with any suggestions for amending the claims or further clarifying any of the foregoing. Please charge any required fees, including extension fees, or credit any overcharges for this communication to our Dep. Acct. No.19-0750 (order B96-021-6).

Respectfully submitted,
Science & Technology Law Group


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Enc. UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot entry Q9Y256 for Face-2 (3p.)

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